# ¿Can we end poverty without tackling inequality?

# ¿Can we end poverty without tackling inequality?

The following are the four basic laws of economics:

- The search for the highest possible quantity of goods and resources more than is decent or deserved, not for the greater good but for the selfish interest (at the detriment of others and society at large).
- The privilege of allocating particular objects such as land, money, and knowledge to some individuals to use and manage as they please. That allows the exclusion of others who often have a greater need for these resources or can socially control their use.
- Self-interest constrained by competition is championed as a general recipe for progress (the end justifies the means).
- The "free" supply and demand of the market.

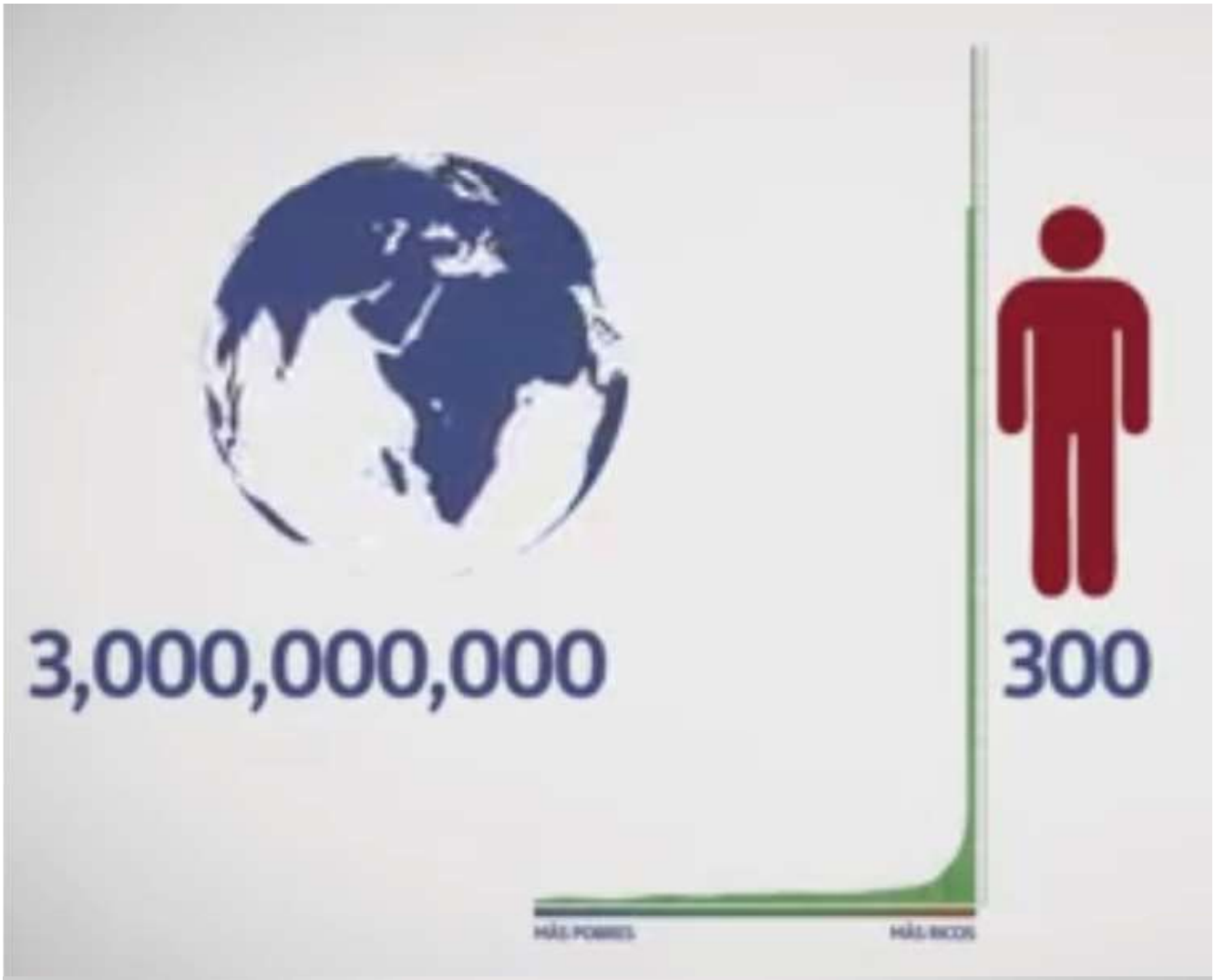
Under these principles, the masses are dominated, in addition to the useful idiots in uniform (poorly educated but highly disciplined armies) and the mass media. This system allows big businesses to take around

$2,000 billion annually from impoverished countries in the form of cheap raw materials, cheap labor, armed conflicts, foreign debt, market speculation, currency exchange, and unfair trade rules. In the case of governments that do not align with this or refuse to accept, the manual indicates the application of sanctions, invasions, and plundering (Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Venezuela, Russia, etc.). That is contrary to their public discourse: *“Wealthy economies boast of helping impoverished nations”*, although this aid does not even correspond to 5% of what big business takes.

Some shameless, selfish, and irresponsible ones claim that *"people in poverty are lazy and unmotivated. They*

*want to live off the government*." That is both dangerous and demonstrably false. The world is full of examples of lazy, untalented rich people who are wealthy because of who their parents were; and intelligent, talented, hard-working poor people who, because of circumstances beyond their control, haven't had the opportunity to improve their lot in life. In many countries, such as Colombia, the rich control access to quality education, balanced food, health, good jobs, soft loans, and entrepreneurial opportunities. If that were true, why does a country like the United States, the epicenter of capitalism, democracy, and the American dream, give subsidies and shelter to its poorest citizens? Isn't everyone there supposed to have the same opportunities to be millionaires?

This situation has led to 15% of the planet's inhabitants owning 94% of the world's wealth. -Well, that doesn't sound so bad - but what would you say if I told you that 1% of the population owns 46% of the planet's resources or, better yet, that 300 people have the same richness as the citizens of the United States, Brazil, India, and China combined. In short, 80% of the population has to live with 6% of the resources. Some people do not even have the means to pay for a place to sleep, food, medicine, or education for their

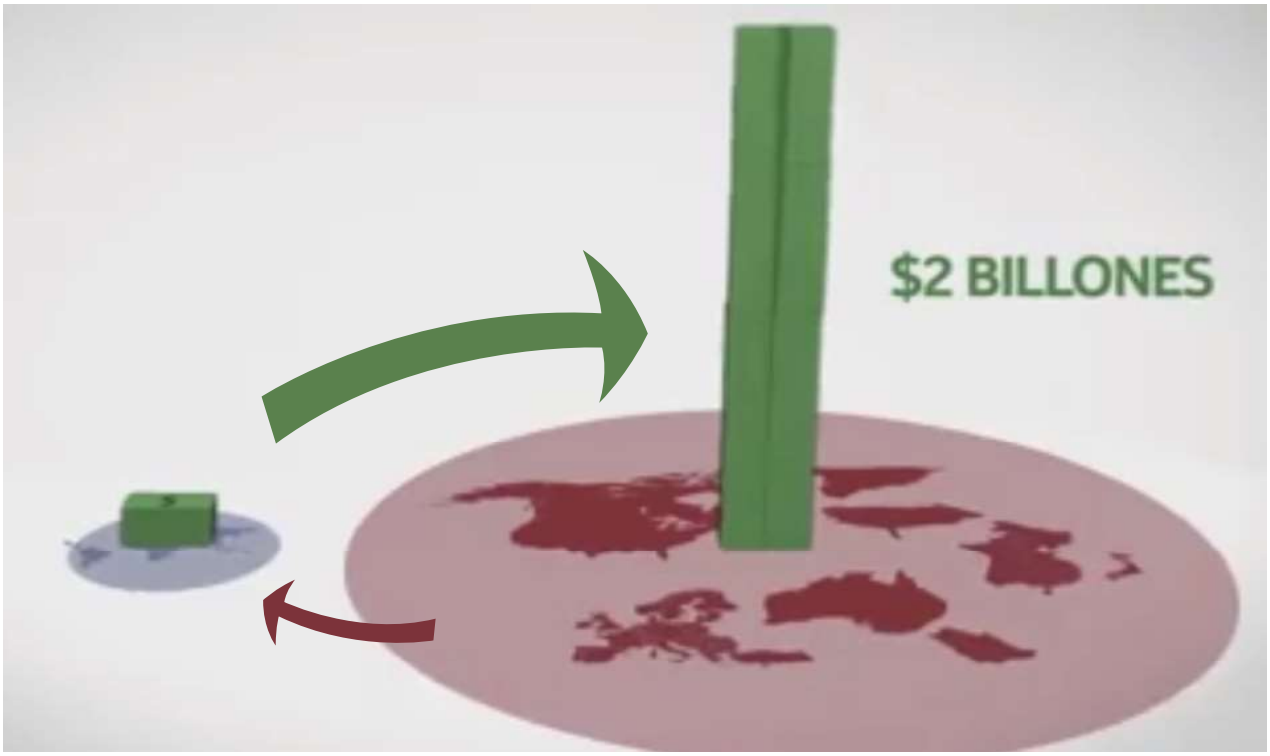

3,000,000,000
300
MÁS POBRES
MÁS RICOS

children.

On the other hand, it is easy to say that socialism collapsed when we condemned, pointed out, and even crushed any project coming close to that under the idea that private property is an untouchable right. The idea of: *"all men equal and enjoying the same rights and opportunities over the land and resources of a country"* is inconceivable for capitalism. No matter what the currently valid constitution states. Then, if someone dares to take from the rich to give to the poor, that is a cause for alarm for the international community. Then come the sanctions, blockades, and, if all that does not work, invasions, looting, and imposed governments. In Latin America, they imposed right-wing dictatorships and, in Colombia, a paramilitary government.

According to this concept, many economists argue that *"they can reduce poverty without tackling inequality. The rich have no moral obligation to help the poor. Taking from the rich to give to the poor is useless."* Rather, they suggest to:

- To establish absurd figures for measuring poverty. That is when the government tells society that the poverty line is below a monthly income of U $100 (Colombia), no matter if people need five




times more to survive (basic standard of living).

- To cut taxes, give money, and reduce regulation to companies, thus providing an incentive to create jobs. That is false because creating new job opportunities is a company decision, and we don't have studies indicating how many new jobs/each $1,000 tax cut. Moreover, high-income families are more likely to save than spend their tax cut. During a recession, they did not need the extra money to maintain their standard of living.

- On the other hand, when salaries are below the minimum survival rate, which is always the case, the result is the integration of many people into

the labor market with precarious employment, so they only have enough to subsist. As one of our most brilliant right-wing colombian politicians said: *"poor people with the capacity to consume, that is a delight"* because people can buy milk, bread, clothes, pay rent and move the market, etc., but they will always maintain their social position. Think about this: if an employer gives someone a job and five years later -for whatever reason- fires him (the economy crashes, got sick, cannot work anymore, etc.), this person is still the same poor he was but now is older, less healthy, has the same education, and has fewer opportunities.

• To provide monthly survival subsidies. In general, these subsidies are low and do not cover basic needs. That does not allow people to save or invest in personal projects "poor people with consumption capacity." Besides, that can discourage initiative, entrepreneurship, innovation, and creation.

• When your income is only just enough to cover your basic living costs, even modest unexpected outgoings can push you into debt, and loans can be difficult to repay if you encounter financial difficulties. If products are not sold, the competition is

stronger, or you get sick, banks do not care. Firstly, if you take out a loan, are required to pay back more than the amount they borrowed, due to interest. Secondly, loans can be secured against assets, meaning that if the borrower fails to repay the loan, the lender can claim ownership of these assets. This can put borrowers at risk of losing their home or business if they are unable to repay the loan.

I do not believe that poverty, a multi-faceted phenomenon, can be solved without affecting inequality. How can the poor generate wealth?

The factor that can impact your wealth creation is developing good skills at earning, saving, and investing economic resources.

Economic resources are the resources used for carrying out economic activities, such as land, labour, capital, and entrepreneurship. That is good but the system serves the interests of economic elites to the detriment of ordinary people. Why do big corporations and their executives receive support from the federal government through contracts, grants, tax breaks, subsidies, loans, and bailouts? If 10% of humanity holds 90% of the planet's wealth, why don't we

give the poor access to productive assets?

- If your salary isn't enough to secure your necessities, it is like trying to fill a bucket of water full of holes. Many people complain the poor do not save, without considering that many times do not even have enough for housing, costs for food, child care, health care, transportation, taxes, and other basic expenses.

- Education is the most powerful investment in our future. Even the poorest of the poor who had access to good quality education can transform their lives. In Colombia, the educational system secures bilingual education and the bests universities for wealthy students. It is the same with the scholarships for Masters and PhDs.

- Food Assistance Programs for students are an inversion. It is critical for maintaining attention and concentration and get academic success. In Colombia, government contractors serve children overpriced and poor condition food. Manytimes unhealthy food (donkey meat).

- International human rights law acknowledges everyone’s right to an adequate standard of living, which

**Con un sánduche y gaseosa, así despidió el Ejército a 600 soldados que cumplieron servicio**

includes the right to adequate housing. A secure, longer-term property can give families emotional stability, financial and economic security, and dignity. In Colombia, the government turned a blind eye when landowners or paramilitaries displaced farmers. It also awards them by cutting taxes with the excuse they rented or hired employees. Furthermore, subsidized housing programs are directed to rich.

- Entrepreneurship can reduce poverty in several ways. Government must formulate policies for the promotion and development of small-scale industries:
    - Reserve products for small-scale industries.
    - Analyse data on imported products and assist

their production.

o Motive small-scale industries to participate in Government Stores Purchase Programs.

o Offer training and consultancy services and training to small-scale industries by improving products, processes, and machinery.

Why cut taxes on companies with exportation, earnings in dollars, or having more than 500 employees? Why the government gives 300 billion pesos to Tecnoquímica (a big pharmaceutical company) or Avianca (a foreign corporation)? Why infrastructure, manufacturing, and clean energy, are personal businesses of some families?

- Street vendors are an integral part of the world's urban economies. It is an opportunity to prioritize the welfare of the urban poor and enhance their livelihoods. Police arrest them, beat them unconscious, evict them by force, destroy their property, and killed.

- The government must provide housing for those who do not have one instead of legalizing land stolen by industrialists or reducing the price of materials for large builders.

Nelly Ospina
Hace 21 minutos ·
Ahí lo tienen, otro fiel representante del CD. será que las personas olvidarán ,quien es quien , en la larga lista de corruptos
CAMBIOCOLOMBIA.COM
Cayó el mayor deforestador de Colombia | Cambio Colombia

**Selfish lifestyles fuel poverty. Why can't people have basic welfare, goods, and services? Why can't we have the right to a roof over our heads, a piece of land, and a decent way of making a living? Is welfare just for the rich?**

I can't understand that 94% of the resources belong to only 15% of the population.

Right-wing politicians were willing to give 1 billion pesos free to the wealthiest man in Colombia, and 300 billion pesos to Avianca, a foreign company, to cover

their losses, so why not give housing to those who don't have it? Is it because that is not for you?

The idea is to enable them to increase their earnings, obtain the goods and services they need, and participate in the development process and the decisions that affect them.

# There were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq

**1,625 UN and US inspectors spent two years searching 1,700 sites at a cost of more than $1bn. Yesterday they delivered their verdict**

**Alberto Cubero**

@cubero_alberto

El mundo son casi 200 países pero la OTAN son solo 30. En el mundo hay varias razas, pero ellos son todos blancos. En el mundo hay desigualdades, pero ellos son de los países más ricos. Han iniciado casi todas las guerras, pero dicen defender la paz.